

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1168

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: FURTHER REACTIONS TO GOVERNMENT PROHIBITION OF POLITICAL MEETINGS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2870

1. THE LIBERAL PARTY ISSUED A DECLARATION THAT SUSPENDED INTERNAL PARTY ELECTIONS WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 14. THE DECLARATION BLAMED THE ACTION ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROHIBITION OF THE HOLDING OF POLITICAL MEETINGS. IT STATED THAT THE HOLDING OF THE MEETINGS COULD HAVE PROVOKED VIOLENT AND REPRESSIVE ACTION BY THE AUTHORITIES THAT COULD RESULT IN BLOODSHED. THE DECLARATION STATES THAT THE MEETINGS ARE BEING SUSPENDED TO AVOID SUCH A SITUATION, BUT EMPHASIZES THAT THE DECISION DID NOT AFFECT THE PARTY'S CAMPAIGN FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONALITY.

2. THE CIVIC COMMITTEE OF HONDURAN WOMEN ALSO ISSUED A STATEMENT SUPPORTING THE PROTEST OF THE LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION AGAINST THE MEETING BAN. IT CHARACTERIZES

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THE ACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO

DESTROY DEMOCRACY IN HONDURAS.

3. COMMENT: THE PROTESTS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT DECISION HAVE CONTINUED TO BE
FEATURED IN THE PRESS. THE NET OUTCOME OF THE PRESENT
SITUATION IS A GAIN FOR THE PARTIES. THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED
TO A GREAT EXTENT IN DRAMATIZING THE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS
AS AN ATTACK ON CIVIL RIGHTS AND OF ENLISTING VARIOUS
CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR SIDE OF THE CASE.
SANCHEZ

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